



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that **Thomas Brewster**, age 54 of Portsmouth, NH, has been indicted for embezzling more than \$150,000 from a Portsmouth, NH Labor Union.

Brewster, who had been the Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the Business Manager, of the Laborer's International Union of North America, also known as LIUNA, was charged by the Grand Jury with violating Title 29, United States Code, Section 501(c). Section 501(c) is that portion of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (the LMRDA) which criminalizes embezzlement of union funds by union officers or employees.

The LMRDA was enacted by Congress in 1959 in the wake of an extensive investigation by the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor and Management Field which found widespread misuse and mismanagement of union funds. By its passage, Congress asserted federal jurisdiction over internal union affairs and the conduct of union officers, citing as its basis for so acting the impact which labor organizations and their officers had on the free flow of commerce in the United States.

The Indictment alleges that Brewster embezzled more than \$150,000 between May 17, 2003 and December 27, 2004. If convicted, he faces a maximum prison sentence of five years and a fine of up to \$10,000.

This matter was investigated by the United States Department of Labor, Office of The Inspector General, Division of Labor Racketeering, and Office of Labor Management Standards. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold H. Huftalen.

An indictment merely alleges that a crime has been committed and that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.